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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION ON NEW OPIOID ADDICTION TREATMENT REGULATIONS**

### ***Statement of Eric Linzer, HPA President & CEO***

“Health plans share the concern about the opioid epidemic in America and are committed to being part of the collaborative efforts to both combat opioid abuse and provide treatment for those with substance use disorders.

“Here in New York, over the past several years health plans have been and continue working closely with the state — including the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuses Services, the Department of Health and Department of Financial Services — on these efforts. The regulation and circular letter guidance issued today are merely a reflection of those ongoing collaborations.

“Health plans support comprehensive treatment for individuals dealing with addiction, including use of medication assisted treatment (MAT) and inpatient rehab. However, it is important to note that while health plans cover MAT, MAT capacity continues to be a concern in New York. Moreover, many inpatient rehabilitation programs do not permit MAT, do not offer it and are philosophically opposed to its use in treatment — issues that are not addressed by the new regulation and circular letter.

“Our member plans work diligently with providers, pharmacists and other clinical experts through their pharmacy and therapeutic committees to ensure members have access to the most appropriate drugs to meet their needs. Pharmacy formularies are designed to maximize the affordability of needed prescriptions and all plans have exception processes for their drug policies.

“We remain dedicated to working with partners across the health care system and our state policy leaders to maintain New Yorkers can access comprehensive, effective approaches to pain management and addiction treatment”

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